

MARK TWAIN.

How He Narrowly Missed Discovering a Fortune.

an Interesting Reminiscence of the Time When He Was a Pocket-Miner to California-Mark's Luck of Backbone at a Critical Period.

[Alta California.]

The position of the pocket-miner among the other inhabitants of a mining region very much resembles that of the bee-hunttramong the people of the frontier set-tlements in agricultural regions. The business he follows also has several points of resemblance to that of the bee-hunter. The trail followed by one leads him to the tree stored with sweets, and that of the other ends in a pocket of sweetest gold. The man who becomes an expert beehunter is likely to remain a bee-hunter all his days, and the same may be said of the

Mark Twain's narrow escape from bening a pocket-miner has never been told. It is worth recording, as it gave him the story of the "Jumping Frog," and sent him off along the line of the literary lode and set him to scratching therein for pockets of fun.

In 1865 Mark wearled of Bohemian life in San Francisco, and went up into the mining regions of Calaveras County to rusticate with some old friends-Steve, Jim and Billy Gillis. Jim Gillis was, and still is, one of the most successful pocket-miners in California. Although educated with a view eventually to fight the battle of life as a physician, and though still finding solace in his leisure moments in the works of Greek and Latin authors reposing on a shelf in his cabin, Jim Gillis is booked for life as a pocket-miner. The business has charms for him that he can not break away from-he is bound to it in chains of gold. Show him a particle of quartz gold on the side of a monntain, and if it came to where it was found through the process or accidents of nature undisturbed in any way by the interference of man, he will as unerringly trace it to its source as the bee-hunter will follow the bee to its hoard of sweets.

Mark Twain found the Bohemian style of mining practiced by the "Gillis boys" much more attractive than those more, regular kinds which call for a large out ay of muscie. He and Jim Gillis took to the hills in search of golden pockets and spent some days in working up the undisturbed trait of an undiscovered deposit. They were on the golden "bee line" and stuck to it faithfully, though it was necessary to carry each sample of dirt to a small stream in the bed up a canyon in order to pan it out. Each step made sure by golden grains, they at last came upon the pocket which had thrown these grains off. It was a cold, dreary, drizzling day when the "home donosit" was found. The first sample carried to the stream and washed out yielded but a few cents. Although the right vein had been discovered, they had as yet found but the "tail-end" of the pocket. Returning to the vein, they dug a sample from a new place, and were about to carry it down to the ravine and about to carry it down to the ravine and not going to hang around the State House test it when the rain began to pour down at \$1 a day any longer than he can help, heavily. With chattering teeth Mark declared he would remain no lorger. He in a cotton-mill. said there was no sense in freezing to death, as, in a day or two, when it was bright and warm, they could return and pursue their investigations in comfort. Yielding to Mark's entreaties, backed as they were by his blue nose, humped back, and generally miserable and dejected appearance, Jim emptied the hold good for thirty days. Angels' days. Camp being at no great distance from miles away, Mark and Jim struck out for that place. The only hotel in the little mining camp was kept by one Coon Drayton, an old Mississippi River pilot, and at his house the haif-froze pocket miners found shelter. Mack Twain having formerly followed the business of pilot on the Mississippi River, he and Coon were soon great friends, and swapped scores of varus. It continued to rain for three

The story of the "jumping frog" was one of the yarns told Mark by Coon during the three days' session, and it struck him as being so comical that he determined to write it up. When he returned to the Gillis cabin, Mark set to work upon the frog story. He also wrote some sketches of life in the mountains and mines for some of the San Francisco

inys, and until the weather cleared up

Mark and Jim remained at Coon's hotel,

Mark did not think much of the frog story even after it had received the finishing touches. He gave the preference to some other sketches and sent them to the opers for which he was writing. Steve Gillis, however, declared that the frog story was the best thing Mark had written, and advised him to save it for a book of sketches he was talking of publishing. A literary turn having been given to the thoughts of the inmates of the Gillis cabin, a month passed without a return to the business of pocket-mining.

While the days were passed by Mark and his friends in discussing the merits of the "Jumping Frog" and other literary matters, other prospectors were not lille. A trio of Austrian miners who were out in search of good-bearing quartz happened spon the spot where Mark and Jim had due into their ledge. It was but a few days after Twain and Gillis had retreated om the place in the pouring rain. The Austrians were not a little astonished at ceing the ground glittering with gold.

Where the dirt emptied from the sacks and been dissolved and washed away by therain, lay some three cunces of tright quarz gold. The foreigners were not long n gathering this, but the speedy discovery of the notice forbade their delving into the deposit whence it came. They could only wait and "watch and pray." This hope was that the parties who had posted up the notice would not return while it held

The sun that rose on the day after the Twain-Gillis notice expired saw the Auslaus in possession of the ground, with a totice of their own conspicuously and delantly posted. The new owners cleaned out the pocket, obtaining from it in a few lays, a little over \$7,500.

Had Mark Twain's backbone held out a ittle longer the sacks of dirt would have een washed and the grand discovery nade. He would not have gone to Angels' camp and would ; robably never have heard

or written the story of the "Jumping Frog," the story that gave him his first "hoost" in the literary world, as the "Heathen Chinee" gave Bret Harte his Grat lift up the ladder. Had Mark Twain and the gold that was captured by the Austrians, he would have settled down as a pocket-miner. He would never have given up the chase, and till this day, gray as a badger, he would have been pounding quartz, with Jim Gillis for his "pard" in a



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cattn somewhere in the Sierra Nevada

PAY OF LEGISLATORS. What It Is Worth to Manage the Ma-chinery of a State.

When one looks over the pay-tables of the different Legislatures, he is tempted to wonder why the wide discrepancies that exist have not already here made the exist have not already been made the cause for the formation of a grand "National Trades Union of Legislators," which will insist on uniform prices for all classes of work, with a regulation as to how much

but then California is a high-priced State in every way, including just now her real estate around Los Angeles. She has 129 Senators and Representatives, and she provides that they must do 60 days' work each

which has 108 Senators and Representatives, whom she pays less than diggers and shovelers on a railroad grade. Their stimeans avoid doing so. I am told that she to the state of the stat age. As the State is only 47% miles long by 40 broad, there is no chance to get in any "gouge" on this item, by taking a roundabout course to the capital. In fact, the Legislator may be said to be as directly under the eye of his watchful constituents from the moment he fleaves home until he takes his scat at Newport or Providence as a boy is when his mother sends him to the spring. There is no limit to the length of the session, doubtless because the Rhode Islanders are reasonably sure that a man is when he can get twice as much for working

Alabama has 133 Legislators, whom she pays \$4 a day for 50 days, and 10 cents mileage. It is unnecessary to state that they put in every one of the 50 days allowed, and

dejected appearance, Jim emptied the in for the entire \$300 at the close of each sacks of dirt upon the ground, first session. Colorado has a small Legislature having hastily written and posted up a -only 26 Senators and 49 Representatives, to risk his time—he had nothing else notice of their claim to a certain number whom she mays 57 a day. of feet on the vein, which notice would age. The legal length of the session is to

Accordingly he called upon one of her

creditors to whom she owed a bill of \$400.

the spot, while their cabin was some same moderate scale as Rhodo Island, alhow long they sit, and makes no limit to the sessions. Like the rest of the New England States she has a big Legislature-24 Senstors and 249 Representatives. Little Delaware has 9 Senators and 20 Representatives, whom she pays \$3 a day and lets them sit

as long as they please.

Florida has 108 Legislators, whom she lets sit 60 days at \$6 a day, with 10 cents a mile for traveling expenses. Georgia, which lies alongside of her, thinks she can get good enough law-makers for 84 a day, and only

allows them a 40-days' job at that.

Illinois permits her Legislaturs to sit as long as they want to at 45 a day, with 10 comis mileage, and a bonus of \$50. Inor talent at Indianapolis than in assembled at Springfield, and pays her men 46 n day. but only allows them to sit 60 days. They get twice as much mileage as the Illinoisians, though it should cost no more to travel in one State than the other.

Iowa has 150 Legislators, and they must do all the law-making they do for \$550 a year, without mileage. Kansas thinks she can get good enough men for all practical es for 83 a day and 15 cents in Centucky pays 138 Legislators 85 a day for 60 days, and allows them 15 cents a mil Louisiana's 134 Legislators sit 60 days at 54 a day, with mileago. Maryland's 26 Senators and 91 Representatives get 85 a day for 90 days, and mileage at the rate of 15 cents. Massachusetts pays her "General Court" \$750 a year, and allows them 20 cents a mile to raise them above the temptation of free passes. She has 40 Senators and 240 Reprasentatives. Michigan gets very good laws made for 33 a day, with 10 cents mileage.

Minnesota pays 45 a day and 15 cents mile-age. She has 150 Legislators, and the sesgives a job 70 days long to 174 men at \$5 a day, and 15 cents mileage, with a bonus of 830. Nebraska cuts the session down to 40 days, and then only pays her "assembled wisdom' (there are 133 heads in it) 13 a day, with 10 cents a mile for railroad tickets and lunches. Nevada has only 60 men, and they can legislate enough in 60 days for her 63,000 people. They get \$7 a day while at work, and 40 cents a mile going and com-New Hampshire has the largest Legslature, containing 345 members, and pays them \$3 a day. New Jersey has \$1 and pays them \$500 a year. New York pays \$2 Senators and 128 Assemblymen \$1,500 a year,

and 10 cents a mile. North Carolina gathers 170 brainy "Tar Heels" at Raieigh for 60 days on the induce-ment of \$4 a day and 10 cents a mile. Ohio thinks that \$600 a year, with 12 cents mileage, is fair recompense for the 147 men who gather at Columbus to wrestle with the Temperance question and regulate State institutions. Oregon is ruled by 30 men, who get \$3 a day and 10 cents mileage. Pennsylvania pays her 251 the same as New York-\$1,500 a year, but cuts their mileage down to 5 cents. South Carolina has 150, whom she pays \$5 a days, with ten cents a mile for riding over her rickety, earthquake-shaken roads. Tennessee has 133, whom she pays \$4 a day for 75 days, and 16 cents mileage. Vermont pays \$3 a day to 270 mea for 30 days, and they must travel at their own or Virginia pays 140 men \$540 a year for 90 days' work, and 10 cents mileage. West Virginia gets along with 45-day sessions, for which she pays 91 men 54a day and 10 cents mileage. Wisconsin's Legisla-ture has 136 members, who get \$500 a year,

with 10 cents mileage. The quality of the work does not seem to New York

nave any relation to the pay. The \$3-a-day men make about as many bad laws as those who only receive \$1 per diem, and the \$1-aday fellows make as good laws-and as many of them-as they who get eight times as much. A man in Rhode Island is just as anxious to get into the Legislature as one in California or New York, and the highare no more devoted and incorruptible than the cheaper fellows in other States

A LAWYER'S START.

How a Pittsburgh Attorney Brought a Fe-maie Deadbeat to Time.

Not more than two years ago there lived shall constitute a day's labor, allowance for at one of the principal hotels in this city, overtime and double pay for Sunday and night-work, says the National Tribune.

For example, California thinks her Legisshe was worth more than \$100,000. She lators carn \$8 a day, with 10 cents a mile for dressed very handsomely, kept a carriage traveling expenses, and \$25 thrown in for a house. This is the highest price and pair and moved in what Thackeray's house. This is the highest price and an analysis of some control of the principal hotels in this city, says the Pattsburgh Dispatch, a lady of means. It is said that in round numbers she was worth more than \$100,000. She lators earn \$8 a day, with 10 cents a mile for dressed very handsomely, kept a carriage traveling expenses, the principal hotels in this city, says the Pattsburgh Dispatch, a lady of means. It is said that in round numbers she was worth more than \$100,000. She lators earn \$8 a day, with 10 cents a mile for dressed very handsomely, kept a carriage traveling expenses, and \$25 thrown in for a lator was a lady of means. It is said that in round numbers she was worth more than \$100,000. She lators earn \$8 a day, with 10 cents a mile for dressed very handsomely, kept a carriage traveling expenses, and \$25 thrown in for a lator was a lator bonus. This is the highest price per day Jeems would call "the uppah suckles" of so-paid by any State for this kind of service, ciety. There is no need to identify her more

closely.

Her striking peculiarity—the only one she had—was a deep-rooted aversion to paying bills. She always settled promptly her hotel bill, and the other bills which the maintenance of her establishment pro-At the other extreme stands Rhode Island, duced—the livery-stable's bill, for example which has 108 Senators and Representa—were punctually paid. But all others she incurred she never paid if she could by any

I am told that she used to drive up to a first-class store, order a sealskin dolman, a few silk dresses, diamonds or what not, to be sent to her hotel, saying that she would call around in a few days and pay for them. The goods were always sent and that was the end of it. Bills were rendered and bills were sent again, but my lady ignored them altogether. She had obtained the goods in the first place because she was known to be a wealthy woman and of good standing in society. For the same reason she was not sued when she refused to pay. Her many wealthy and honest friends might be offended if she were sued, the storekeepers reasoned and they bore the loss as well as

they could. She would never have paid a cent on any of say a dozen large bills if a smart collec-tion agent had not applied a novel screw to

her pocket-book.

The collection agent in question heard of Arkansas pays her 124 Legislators 26 a and as he was drumming his heels in an extra for the entire \$500 at the class of the content of this fashionable deadboat's performances, and as he was drumming his heels in an extra for the entire \$500 at the class of the cla

He asked the merchant to allow him to try
to collect the money. The merchant warned him that it would be labor lost, but the collowing them \$300 a year and mileege. As lector was willing to make the attempt. He she pays them by the year she does not care how long they sit, and makes no limit to the bill if he could collect it.

Then he set to work. He wrote the lady a polite note asking her to call at his office. It was not answered. He wrote a little sharper note. No answer came. Then he stated his ciaim in very plain letters and figures on a postal card. The lady herself came in great agitation to answer the card She protested against the use of postal cards, which the hotel clerks, tho bell-boys and every body could read.

"Pay the bill, madam," said the collector, "and I'll wait upon you myself with the re-

He got two hundred dollars on account at that session. The balance came the next day. The merchant was delighted, and paid the fifty per cent. commission gladly. Then the co lector went to every store of any promi-nence in the city, and wherever he found a bill against this lady he bought it as cheap as he could. Most of them be bought for a

He had some little difficulty in turning all of these bad debts into cash, but he always fell back on the postal-card squeezer, and it always did its work quickly and effectually. In all, I am told that his profit on these transactions amounted to more than \$2,000. I know it started him in business and though this all occurred since January 1886, when he was penniless, to-day he has a profitable collection agency and two brick houses of his own.

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS.

by Carolessness.

"There is a great deal of carelessness newadays in giving introductions," said a society leader to the New York Mail and

nge. She has 150 Legislators, and the ses-sions are 60 days long. Mississippi hires tion meant considerably more than it now 160 lawmakers at \$400 a year. Missouri does. It was not given lightly and almost as a matter of course to any applicant. Of late the formality of introduction has been much abused. There in no longer the same caution and discrimination in the matter People will often unthinkingly introduce to their friends the meanest casual acquaintances, of whose moral and social standing that by so doing they are pledging their own honor for their conduct. It is of course principally owing to the easy and matter-of-course fushion in which introductions are asked and obtained that adventurers and fortune-hunters are able to secure a footing in good society so easily. If proper care were taken to see that those seeking care were taken to see that those seeking introductions were what they professed to its EAGLE office.

Lithographing of all kinds at the Wichita EAGLE office. be, the operations of these gentry would be

rendered much more difficult.
"People ought at least to be as careful in maintaining the standard of social life as they habitually are in regard to their business transactions. No man of ordinary prudence will enter into business relations with a stranger which put it in the power of the latter to injure his credit or commercial standing in the community by misconduct or negligence, without making full inquiry and assuring himself, as far as possible, of the reliability of the other. Shrewd and successful merchants are very careful as to whose paper they indorse, or whom they recommend to positions of trust and re-sponsibility. A little of the same caution and careful investigation of the claims of those who request the social indorsement of an introduction would save many un-pleasant scandals and do much to preserve the tone of society. The practice of giving indiscriminate introductions urgently needs reformation, and nowhere more than in

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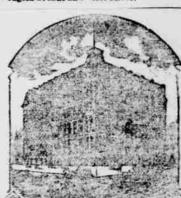
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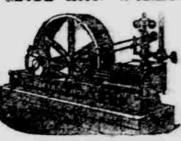
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